

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:RGH
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NEA - MR. VELIOTES
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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MIDDLE EAST SPECIALISTS IN THE
DEPARTMENT

1. DAY-LONG MEETING IS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE DEPARTMENT
TUESDAY, JUNE 7 WITH A SMALL GROUP OF SPECIALISTS AND
ACADEMICS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE MEETING, ORGANIZED BY
NEA IN CONJUNCTION WITH INR, IS TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING
PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT:

-- PROFESSOR CARL BROWN, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
-- PROFESSOR PAUL JABBER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
-- PROFESSOR NADAV SAFRAN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
-- PROFESSOR WILLIAM GRIFFITH, MASSACHUSETTS

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-- INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
-- PROFESSOR OLES SMOLANSKY, LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
-- PROFESSOR STEPHEN SPIEGEL, UNIVERSITY OF
-- CALIFORNIA
-- MR. MICHAEL VAN DUSEN, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
-- SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE
-- EAST, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

-- MR. RICHARD DEBS, MORGAN-STANLEY BANK, NEW YORK
-- MR. RICHARD ERB, AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE,
-- WASHINGTON, D.C.

2. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN GIVEN THE FOLLOWING
PRESS GUIDANCE TO ANSWER ANY QUERIES ON THE MEETING, AND
POSTS MAY USE AS REQUIRED:

Q. WHY IS THE SECRETARY AND HIS MIDDLE EAST POLICY
ADVISERS HOLDING AN ALL-DAY MEETING IN THE DEPARTMENT
WITH OUTSIDE MIDDLE EAST SPECIALISTS?

A. --THE DEPARTMENT HAS A CONTINUING INTERCHANGE WITH THE
ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS. OUR
OFFICERS MEET WITH SUCH SPECIALISTS ON FOREIGN POLICY
MATTERS AT THE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS, AND
FROM TIME TO TIME THESE ACADEMICS AND OTHER SPECIALISTS
MEET WITH US HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT. (EXAMPLES: HAL
SAUNDERS AND PETE DAY HAVE GONE TO SUCH GROUPS AS
BROOKINGS ON MIDDLE EAST POLICY IN PAST WEEKS.)

--THE MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST JUNE 7 IS PART OF THESE
REGULAR EXCHANGES, ORGANIZED HERE AS PART OF THE
DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM FOR SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIUMS.

--THESE EXCHANGES ARE IN LINE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S
DESIRE TO HAVE MAXIMUM COMMUNICATION WITH PUBLIC GROUPS
ABOUT OUR FOREIGN POLICY. AS PART OF THIS DIALOGUE, THE
SECRETARY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR HIM TO JOIN
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THE GROUP FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION AT THE END OF THE
DAY, HIS SCHEDULE PERMITTING.

Q. IS THE TIMING OF THE MEETING TIED TO MAJOR DECISIONS
THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TO MAKE ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED
IN THE MIDDLE EAST AFTER THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS?

A. --NOT AT ALL. YOU SHOULD READ NOTHING SPECIAL INTO
THE TIMING OF THE MEETING. ITS PURPOSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES
ARE AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

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